

2. (new) A utility lighter having a lighter housing, a lighting rod projecting from the lighter housing, a fuel tank, a valve for releasing fuel from said tank, a gas tube connected to the valve and extending through the lighting rod, an ignition unit for generating a spark, and a safety mechanism comprising:

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a trigger mounted in said lighter housing capable of being engaged by a user;

a locking lever having a surface with more than one elevation, said locking lever mounted within said housing to project toward said trigger, said locking lever biased in a position capable of engaging a portion of said trigger to prevent said trigger from sliding a sufficient distance to engage said ignition unit;

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a safety button secured to said housing and capable of moving in a substantially parallel but opposite direction to said trigger;

said safety button capable of manipulation by a user to permit said safety button to open said valve to release fuel while said safety button simultaneously moves along said surface of said locking lever thereby causing said locking lever to move out of interference with said trigger permitting said activation of said ignition unit by said trigger to ignite the fuel being released from said valve.

Please replace the abstract section in the specification with the following new abstract:

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A safety mechanism in a utility lighter which includes a lever spring and cam mechanism having a fuel release lever and the safety button. When the cam mechanism is in the locked position, the lever spring blocks the stopper tab preventing depression of the trigger, and the fuel release lever closes the fuel release valve. As the safety button is depressed, the lever spring is moved out of alignment with the stopper tab to permit depression of the trigger, the hub rotates, and the fuel release lever is actuated to open the fuel-release valve. As the safety button is released, the lever spring urges the cam mechanism into the locked position.

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